

being of the Assyrian people. In December of 1975, it was incorporated under the State laws of California as a nonprofit education and public benefit organization. Bet-Nahrain established and inaugurated the world's first ever Assyrian radio station, KBES 89.5 FM in 1979, and KBSV TV 23, the world's first Assyrian television broadcasting station, in Ceres in 1996. Their intent is to use their technology to reach millions of people, Assyrian and non-Assyrian, with their message and information.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize the Assyrian New Year 6754 and extend my best to the Bet-Nahrain and the Assyrian community. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing the Assyrian community many years of continued success.

TRIBUTE TO BERTHA WOODARD JOHNSON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2004

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of the unsung American heroes. Every day in this great Nation, there are people who work hard, raise their families and contribute to the fabric of the community. They are largely unrecognized in these ivy-covered halls and their names are unknown. Today, I would like to raise my voice to honor one of the unsung heroes of Brooklyn, NY.

Mrs. Bertha A. Woodard Johnson is the daughter of the late Sadie Woodard and Richard Wallace. She was born in Chester, SC, and reared by her mother and grandmother.

Bertha spent a life providing services for the needy, with a particular vocation of serving children and the elderly. She has worked tirelessly to improve their quality of life through active participation and personal generous donations of her time and talent. This passion to help people led her to become a caregiver and nurse for over 45 years. Before retiring in 1990, she received numerous awards and accolades for her dedicated service, including "Nurse of the Year."

Bertha has served the community through her leadership activities in her church and mentoring activities with young people. In addition to her active involvement in the community, Bertha, the wife of Charlie C. Johnson, mother of five children, seven grandchildren, and three great grandchildren, has been a strong pillar of her family.

Mr. Speaker, Bertha Woodard Johnson has demonstrated great dedication in her life to her family, devotion to her patients and commitment to the people of Brooklyn. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

A TRIBUTE TO COLONEL JAMES CARRUTHERS

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2004

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to COL James Carruthers, na-

tive of Avoca, in my district, who will be honored with the W. Francis Swingle Award for service at the annual dinner of the Greater Pittston Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, Lackawanna County, on March 17, 2004.

Colonel Carruthers is the president of the Millersburg Military Institute in Kentucky.

Colonel Carruthers became the 14th president of the Millersburg Military Institute, known as the Military School of Kentucky, in July. Colonel Carruthers began his career as a Marine in 1968 and saw action in Vietnam with the 1st Battalion 3rd Marines.

Colonel Carruthers served as a field artillery officer, officer-in-charge of the U.S. Marine Guard Force in London, commanding officer of the Marine Corps Recruiting Station in Long Island, NY, manpower plans and policy officer at Marine Corps headquarters in Washington, DC, and operations officer, Marine Corps Base, Quantico, VA.

After his extensive career in the Marines, Colonel Carruthers retired from the military and served as the human resources director for the Benton Foundry in Benton. Colonel Carruthers has also held various leadership positions with Citation Corp, which is headquartered in Alabama.

Prior to his current position, the retired colonel was vice president for enrollment at Marion Military Institute in Alabama.

Colonel Carruthers is married to the former Lanette Jenkins of Worden, IL. The couple has two children, Heather Ann Hall of Burke, VA, and Tyler, a student at Florida State University, and one grandchild, Aidan Patrick Hall.

The Friendly Sons of St. Patrick is a charitable and fraternal organization established on March 17, 1913. The Friendly Sons honors the historic ties between the United States and Ireland. Membership dues, contributions and fundraisers support the organization's scholarship program.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to join the Friendly Sons today in congratulating Colonel Carruthers.

A TRIBUTE TO AIDA YEGHIAZARIAN, 29TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR—2004

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2004

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Women's History Month. During the month of March, we pay special tribute to the accomplishments of our Nation's most distinguished women. It is my great privilege to recognize outstanding women who are making a difference in my district.

I stand today to recognize an extraordinary woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Ms. Aida Yeghiazarian. Ms. Yeghiazarian's passion for community service, especially in the area of education, has made our community a better place in which to live.

Aida Yeghiazarian was born in Tehran, Iran, in 1955. After attending Reza Shah High School, she took accounting courses at a local college for 1 year. Although her studies in Iran were interrupted when she and her family immigrated to the United States in 1977, Aida took many courses in the United States over

the next few years, including management of commercial properties, business and real estate law, and English.

In 1979, Aida married her husband, Vahe, and they moved to Glendale. In 1980, Aida obtained her real estate license and, with her husband, bought a franchise of the Re/Max Real Estate Agency. They have two daughters, Sevan and Anie.

While maintaining a full-time career, Aida volunteered at all of her daughters' schools, including the Verdugo Gymnastics School, Flintridge Preparatory School, the Champion Gymnastics School and Van Nuys Gymnastics Olympica. Formerly active in the PTAs of Tufenkian Pre-school and Chamlian Armenian School, she still assists Chamlian School in its fund-raising efforts.

Aida Yeghiazarian has been on the Glendale Board of Realtors for over 24 years, serving on their commercial real estate advisory committee. She is a member of the National Association of Realtors and a member of the California Association of Realtors. Because of her real estate experience, Aida feels fortunate to be able to help financially struggling families with their financial planning, often by working without commission.

Ms. Yeghiazarian spearheaded the successful fund-raising campaign for the Glendale Police Memorial Fund, raising over \$35,000. She is a former president and 12-year board member of the Armenian Educational Foundation, a nonprofit organization that assists Armenian students with scholarships, teacher training, and school restoration. Aida serves on the Armenian National Committee of America Western Region, is a member of Homenetmen, and the Armenian American Chamber of Commerce.

I ask all Members of Congress to join me today in honoring an extraordinary woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Aida Yeghiazarian. The entire community joins me in thanking Aida Yeghiazarian for her continued efforts to make the 29th Congressional District a better place in which to live.

HONORING ANN MARIE SUDDUTH

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2004

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ann Marie Sudduth for 37 years of dedicated service to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Ann will retire from the Fresno HUD Office on April 2 and will be honored at an event held in California.

Ann was recruited by HUD for clerical work at the D.C. office from her high school in the coal mining mountains of West Virginia. From 1967 to 1978, she served as a Secretary/Stenographer in the Single Family Division of HUD. Ann then became the Personal Assistant to the Director for Property Disposition and supervised all clerical staff. In 1980, she was promoted to Mortgage Service Specialist, where she served until 1986. In just 6 years she was appointed Chief of the Insured Servicing Branch and was responsible for national oversight of the policy procedures governing the service of approximately 6 million FHA-insured mortgages. In 1994, Ms. Sudduth was